

Testimony of Walter Glomb  
to the Appropriations Committee  
February 15, 2013

Good evening. My name is Walt Glomb. I live in Rockville with my son Nicholas who receives Individualized Supported Employment supports from the Department of Developmental Services.

Supports from DDS enable my son to work at a local supermarket where he earns a competitive wage. DDS is also helping Nick to write a plan for a food-service business which, if successful, will enable him to become more independent and self-sufficient. This is just one example of the exciting work that DDS is doing with individuals who live with intellectual disabilities and I urge you to continue funding these services, which are in the Individualized Supported Employment budget line under Employment and Day Services.

I thank Commissioner Macy for doing his best to provide the highest level of services to the largest number of people with a limited budget. The fact is that DDS does not receive sufficient funding to serve the number of people who need its services - the Waiting Lists are evidence of this – and the Commissioner is forced to play a zero-sum game in which he must make many difficult, no-win decisions about the allocation of limited funds.

Finally, I would like to briefly speak to an issue that this committee raised during Commissioner Macy's testimony this morning. We are all concerned about the wages paid to direct care workers. If direct care workers are underpaid then it is because the legislature does not appropriate sufficient funds to pay them more and I would ask the legislature to add money to the DDS budget for the purpose of increasing the wages of workers at our private, nonprofit, community service providers.

Thank you for your attention.